



GARY  
COLSON

*Sculptor*

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cc: BOS 4/14/03  
lp

Dear Mr. Lee,

I am contacting you in regards to the possibility of installing my sculpture, "First Steps", in the garden area near Culpeper Street in Warrenton. The plan as Kristi Anzivino described it to me sounds wonderful. It has been my hope to place the sculpture in just such a place since I first proposed the idea to the Excellence in Education Board in 2001.

I have enclosed photographs showing two angles of "First Steps" and an article about the making of the piece that should supply you with a nice background. The basic message behind the artwork is that people have to help each other as in how a father helps his son, or a teacher helps a student, or how any leader helps guide people down the right path. The overall size of the piece is 26 inches tall by 24 inches wide by 12 inches deep and it is carved from Portland Limestone.

I chose not to carve faces on the figures because I wanted them to be anyone of us. If I were to carve eyes, noses and mouths, then it would be one specific person. You may have heard about the proposed memorial to the firefighters of New York City and the surrounding controversy over the firefighters' faces. People complained that the faces were all of one ethnic group and the sculptor changed the figures to portray African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latin Americans and Anglo-Americans. I feel that my 'abstract' solution with the regard to the faces works to keep the focus on what the sculpture is really about...helping each other. Thank you for your time and for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary D. Colson

